

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02885 201432Z

66

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 EUR-25 EB-11

COME-00 DRC-01 /153 W

----- 103278

R 201340Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0804

UNCLAS BANGKOK 2885

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJ: FORMER RTG FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN'S ADDRESS TO  
THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

REF : BANGKOK 2874

SUMMARY: IN AN ADDRESS ENTITLED TURNING POINT IN U.S. -  
THAI RELATIONS, THANAT KHOMAN, FORMER RTG FOREIGN MINISTER,  
SAID THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND SHOULD "WATERGATE" THEIR  
PROBLEMS, I.E., AIR THOSE PROBLEMS FOR HEALTHY OPEN DIS-  
CUSSION. HE CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES FOR PREOCCUPATION  
WITH SECURITY AIMS. HE SAID THIS PREOCCUPATION CAUSED THE UNITED  
STATES TO COOPERATE WITH ANY THAI LEADER WHO WOULD HELP THE UNITED  
STATES ACHIEVE ITS SECURITY AIMS. WITH CLEAR ALLUSION TO  
THAILAND'S FORMER MILITARY LEADERSHIP, THANAT ACCUSED THE UNITED  
STATES OF GIVING THAI LEADERS WHO HELPED THE UNITED STATES  
ACHIEVE SECURITY AIMS IN SE ASIA THE RESOURCES THOSE LEADERS  
NEEDED TO STAY IN POWER. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF USSAAG IN THAILAND ON THE BASIS OF A SHORT CONVERSATION BETWEEN  
THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND FIELD MARSHAL THANOM (BANGKOK 2874)  
AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC OPERATING STYLE IN  
DEALING WITH THE FORMER REGIME. HE DESCRIBED THIS STYLE AS  
IGNORING NORMAL PROCEDURES AND RELYING SOLELY ON U.S. "FRIENDS"

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 02885 201432Z

IN THE THAI GOVERNMENT. THANAT CLAIMED THAT WHAT THE U.S.

CONSIDERED TO BE AID WAS IN REALITY NOTHING MORE THAN UNDER-PAYMENT FOR THE ADVANTAGES THAT THE U.S. GAINED THROUGH USE OF THAI BASES. HE CRITICIZED THE CONTINUED MILITARY EMPHASIS OF U.S. POLICY IN AN ERA OF DETENTE AND ASKED WHAT BENEFIT THE UNITED STATES OR THAILAND RECEIVED FROM CONTINUED STATIONING OF U.S. TROOPS IN THAILAND. HE SUGGESTED AN INCREASED PACE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS AND CALLED FOR REAL ASSISTANCE TO THE THAI ECONOMY IN THE FORM OF INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES TO TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES. THANAT CONCLUDED WITH THE PREDICTION THAT DELAY IN ACTION ON HIS PROPOSALS COULD ONLY STRAIN U.S. -THAI RELATIONS EVEN FURTHER. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMER RTG FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN ADDRESSED THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON 20 FEBRUARY. SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT TURNING POINT IN U.S. - THAI RELATIONS, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. AND THAILAND SHOULD "WATERGATE" THEIR PROBLEMS, I.E., DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS FRANKLY AND OPENLY IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THEM. THANAT CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR A LONG-TERM PREOCCUPATION WITH SECURITY AIMS IN THAILAND. HE CLAIMED THAT THIS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SECURITY SIDE OF FOREIGN POLICY CAUSED THE UNITED STATES TO COOPERATE WITH ANY THAI LEADER WHO WOULD ASSIST THE UNITED STATES IN ACHIEVING ITS SECURITY OBJECTIVES. HE ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF PROVIDING THAI MILITARY LEADERS WHO FACILITATED CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND WITH THE MEANS THOSE LEADERS REQUIRED TO SUSTAIN A DICTATORSHIP OVER THE THAI PEOPLE.

3. IN ADDITION TO CITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF USSAG IN THAILAND VIA A SHORT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR AND PRIME MINISTER THANOM, THANAT ALSO MENTIONED U.S. APPROACHES TO THAI MILITARY LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO EASE CUSTOMS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AS EXAMPLES OF USE OF U.S. "FRIENDS" TO GAIN SPECIAL TREATMENT AND FAVORS IN THAILAND. THANAT SAID THAT THE U.S.' CLAIM OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO JUSTIFY U.S. OPERATING STYLE IN THAILAND WAS SPURIOUS IN LIGHT OF THE SAKON NAKHON INCIDENT'S EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THAI AFFAIRS.

4. THANAT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH U.S. AID TO THAILAND WAS SUBSTANTIAL, YUGOSLAVIA HAD RECEIVED MORE AID AND HAD NEVER GRANTED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 02885 201432Z

THE UNITED STATES ANY MILITARY BASES. THE RTG, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD ALLOWED THE UNITED STATES TO OPERATE FROM BASES IN THAILAND. THESE BASES ALLOWED THE U.S. TO SAVE BOTH U.S. LIVES AND SUPPORT COSTS DURING BOMBING RAIDS OVER NORTH VIETNAM. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, U.S. AID TO THAILAND WAS LITTLE MORE THAN UNDER-PAYMENT FOR THE UNPARALLELED BENEFITS ENJOYED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THAILAND - FAR GREATER THAN GIVEN BY ANY US-AID RECIPIENT COUNTRY.

5. THANAT CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR A CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON THE MILITARY SIDE OF FOREIGN POLICY DURING AN ERA OF DETENTE. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT BENEFIT THOUSANDS OF U.S. SOLDIERS IN THAILAND WERE SINCE THEY ARE PREVENTED BY A U.S. LAW FROM ANY OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTION. HE REMARKED THAT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT FROM THIS MILITARY PRESENCE WERE BARKEEPERS AND MASSAGE PALOR OWNERS. THANAT SUGGESTED  
E E E E E E E

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BANGKO02885  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaauub.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BANGKOK 2874  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 28 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORMER RTG FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN'S ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, (KHOMAN, THANAT)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005